

State Commission on Fatherhood Members

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Acknowledgement:

The State Commission on Fatherhood is grateful to K-1 World Grand Prix for its generous donation in support of the Commission's work.

For more information on the Commission on Fatherhood, please direct inquiries to Henry Oliva (henryoliva@hawaii.gov).

STATE COMMISSION ON FATHERHOOD



photo courtesy of Tami Dawson

“I remember my father's final lesson. My boy will learn by what I am and what I do far more than what I tell him.”

Norman Lewis Smith, *American writer*

Act 156, Session
Laws of Hawaii 2003
indicates that *the role of fathers in the raising of children and in the health and well-being of families is often unintentionally overlooked*
and established the
State Commission on
Fatherhood
to promote healthy family relationships between parents and children.

The Commission's strategic plan encompasses the following activities:

- Acting as a central clearinghouse and coordinating body on fatherhood
- Identifying best practices in programs and services for fathers
- Identifying the obstacles that impede the involvement of fathers in the lives of their children
- Raising public awareness about the importance of fathers
- Recommending public policies and practices that support fathers



When fathers are present, their children have:*

- **Better school performance.** Children perform better in school, both academically and socially, when their fathers are involved in their education, such as attending meetings and volunteering at school.
- **Less high-risk behaviors.** Children with involved, loving fathers are less likely to engage in behaviors such as drug use, truancy, and criminal activity.
- **Higher self esteem.** Children who have good relationships with their fathers have higher self esteem and lower depression.
- **Less substance use.** The closer that teens are to their fathers, the less likely they are to use drugs.

*Source: Sylvester, Kathleen & Reich, Kathleen (2002). *Making Fathers Count*. Washington, DC: The Social Policy Action Network (SPAN).